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MINISTERS DO PREACH ON PEACE.

IN response to the recommendation of their General Assemblies, probably several thousand ministers in the two sections of the Presbyterian Church preached on peace in July last; but we have no space for a detailed report, and will allude only to the case of Rev. ALBERT HALE, Springfield, Ill., whose two sermons, subsequently published to vindicate him against the storm of abuse which they raised to such a pitch, that a political convention, held in the place not long after, went out of their way to reproach and insult him, though the sermons, as reported in the papers, contain only such sentiments as thousands of ministers at the East utter with perfect freedom and impunity.

SERMON ON WAR BY THE REV. R. W. CLARK AT BROOKLYN, N. Y.—This discourse, though but one of thousands preached on peace within a few months, we notice because we think it a fair specimen, and find it reported in one of the N. Y. daily papers:—

“The preacher commenced by speaking of the difficulty of gaining attention to the subject of War. In time of peace, it was contended, that to meddle with the subject was unnecessary; when we are involved in war, it will be time to consider it. And when war is actually upon us, then, forsooth, every mouth must be shut on pain of being accused of hostility to the institutions of the country, or of a want of patriotism. Above all, the pulpit must be silent on this subject. At the utmost, the clergy may speak of the wars of the Israelites, of the bloody career of Alexander or Napoleon; but as to the war with Mexico, they must not speak.

But what is the office of the pulpit? Why, to speak against Sin; and, if it is not to raise its voice against one of the greatest outrages that disgraces the history of nations, then let it perish as faithless and unworthy.

This war was waged by us upon a sister and weaker Republic. In the midst of the greatest national, intellectual and spiritual advantages, we have plunged into this bloody and unjust contest. In this connection the speaker would bring forward some of the reasons why this nation should never engage in war:

1. *War is destructive to the prosperity of the people.* Mr. C. then contrasted our present condition with that in which we should have been, had we been engaged in warlike pursuits. From the examples of Rome, England and France, he urged the perniciousness of war to the highest interest of men.

2. *War is hostile to our political institutions.* The whole tendency of war is to establish a despotism. Moreover, we have not forgotten how, at the breaking out of this war, the resources of the country were turned from their legitimate use to subserve the purposes of war. The bill for River and Harbor improvements was vetoed, that the money might be devoted to the war. Must we not see how the despotism of a military life necessarily unfits men to discharge the peaceful duties of citizens, and how the moral sentiments can scarcely escape entire corruption in such scenes as the war daily brings before them?

Were our government an absolute despotism, the slavish submission enforced on our citizens in the army, would not be discordant with our institutions. He then spoke with much earnestness against the rewards so often bestowed on soldiers as such, and especially against the idea, that the services of a military chieftain could outweigh, as claims to the highest office in the people's gift, all the most eminent qualities of our best statesmen.

3. *War is contrary to the spirit of our religion.* On this head the speaker dwelt at length with great power of argument and illustration. If it was the destiny of this nation to advance, it was her high mission to conquer by the sword of Faith, by the light of the Gospel, by benefits done to all other nations. To enter on a bloody, destructive war for the extension of slavery, was to be false to the principles on which our institutions are founded, false to our ancestors, false to our religion, false to our high mission, false to our God!

¶ We are obliged not only to abridge this account, but to omit entirely a great deal of matter which we wished very much to insert, particularly respecting the late events and present prospects of the war in Mexico—the progress of our cause abroad—the labors of our Agents, of whom three, including the Secretary, have been continually at work in their respective spheres with success.

ANNUAL EFFORTS FOR PEACE.

EVERY enterprise must have its place; and the friends of peace long ago selected December, generally regarded as the month in which our Saviour was born, and the 25th day set apart in commemoration of that event, as a proper season for joint, special efforts in the cause of peace. Now, if ever, is a time for such efforts; and, in view of the war that has been raging through the whole year past without any prospect as yet of a speedy close, we earnestly hope the friends of peace will at length remember this cause more generally, and in ways more effectual, than ever before. We would not dictate either the time or the specific manner of these efforts for our cause; but we cannot refrain from pressing its strong, special claims just now upon all its real friends. It is quite time for something in earnest; and the present exigencies demand, if this great Christian enterprise is to be sustained at all, a zealous, fearless advocacy in the pulpit, a fervent remembrance in the prayers of God's people, and liberal, spontaneous contributions.

By reference to the foregoing resolutions, it will be seen that the Peace Society is not alone in its views and wishes on these points, but is fully sustained by ecclesiastical bodies in their earnest recommendations, that ministers preach on peace, and Christians observe the annual concert of prayer for this cause, and contribute to its support as they do to other Christian enterprises. We entreat our brethren in the church and the ministry to bear these recommendations in mind, and remember that this cause depends almost entirely on their *spontaneous* efforts in its behalf. Hitherto it has been far too much neglected; and the consequence is, that we are now in the midst of a war which outrages our professions as Christians, and turns our boast as republicans into ridicule and scorn. Had Christians in our country done from the first their whole duty on this subject, we never should have heard of this war; and, if they will all do their duty now, they can, with God's blessing, prevent the return of similar evils in future. The case is clear enough to any eye that will look at it. Had only the degree of pacific sentiment now prevailing in most parts of New